

strike the bill itself and repeal provisions related to the liability of persons associated with nonprofit sports programs. As you may recall, we passed LB 123 previously that dealt with trying to exempt persons affiliated with sports programs, particularly nonprofit sports programs, from liability for any negligent or willful misconduct and any liability therefrom. That bill apparently created a lot of confusion and created a lot of administrative problems for persons organizing nonprofit sports leagues, such as the Babe Ruth Baseball Program and the Little League Programs and so on. So this bill was brought by Senator Johnson to try and clarify some of the language in that particular legislation and try to bring some kind of semblance of organization and understanding to it. My understanding is during the course of a hearing before the Judiciary Committee it was just decided that it would be better to repeal the whole issue because it had created so much confusion and concern and misunderstanding that it wasn't worth keeping. So, as a result, the committee amendments were adopted, as I understand it, with the consent of the bill's sponsors. And, of course, Senator Abboud, as one of the sponsors, is a member of our Judiciary Committee, as is Senator Pirsch also a member of our Judiciary Committee, and my understanding is that Senator Ashford also is a sponsor and Senator Johnson, who is the chief sponsor, are in agreement that the committee amendments should be adopted and just correct the confusion and repeal the particular legislation. So, with that, I would urge the adoption of the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the adoption of the committee amendments. Senator Lowell Johnson, please.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I think Senator McFarland has portrayed the intent of the bill. The previous law is ambiguous language and the cumbersome requirements for collecting and storing the release forms has caused several businesses in my own district, who, prior to the passage of LB 123, annually sponsored nonprofit sports, to withdraw their support for fear that the law subjected them to additional liability. At this point, I would like to direct your attention to the two handouts which I had the Pages distribute this morning. These two letters, one from Dan Carman, President of the Fremont YMCA, the other by David Simmons, Vice President of the Fremont National Bank, provide excellent cases in point of how the sports liability law is having an unintended negative impact on nonprofit sports in